

# MEDIA Release

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Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals • Des Moines, IA 50319-0083

## **DIA AMENDS RULES DEALING WITH IOWA HOSPITALS AND OFF-SITE PREMISES**

*Changes made to Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 481—51*

Earlier this year, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) amended its administrative rules governing Iowa hospitals and off-site premises. The amendments adopted the 2010 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities as the minimum construction standards for hospitals and off-site premises licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135B [481—51.50]; adopted the Iowa Food Code as authorized in Iowa Code section 137F.2 [481—51.20], and included Det Norske Veritas (DNV) as an authorized accreditation organization [481—51.2 and 481—51.6]. All three changes took effect January 5, 2011, and are now included in the rewrite of Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 481—51. A brief synopsis of each major amendment follows.

### 2010 Hospital Construction Guidelines

The Department adopted the *2010 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities* produced by the Facility Guidelines Institute as the minimum construction standards for acute-care hospitals and their off-site premises licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135B. (**Note:** These rule changes do not apply to critical access hospitals.) The amended rules also contain provisions stipulating that hospitals and off-site premises shall be deemed to be in compliance with the minimum construction standards if the buildings met the construction standards in place at the time the buildings were built. Additional language requires that all hospitals and off-site premises meet the requirements of the State Building Code and the Life Safety Code.

### 2005 Iowa Food Code

The Department updated its administrative rules dealing with food services provided in hospitals by adopting the Iowa Food Code as authorized in Iowa Code Chapter 137F.2. Adoption of the Iowa Food Code brings hospital food service requirements into conformance with all other food establishment requirements in the State of Iowa.

### Det Norske Veritas Accreditation

The Department added Det Norske Veritas (DNV) to the list of hospital accreditation organizations. Previously, the rules specified only two accreditation organizations – The Joint Commission, and the American Osteopathic Association. The third organization, Det Norske Veritas, was approved by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a hospital accreditation organization.

*481—51Changes*